

TIRE

I N F O R M A T I O N S E R V I C E B U L L E T I N

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RMA SNOW TIRE DEFINITIONS FOR PASSENGER AND LIGHT TRUCK (LT) TIRES

Passenger and light truck (LT) tires meeting the following criteria are labeled on at least one sidewall with the letters "M" and "S" (e.g., MS, M/S, M&S, M+S, etc.).

These tires have been designed to provide better starting, stopping, and driving performance in snow conditions than non-M&S tires, and have the following general characteristics:

1. New Tire treads shall have multiple pockets or slots in at least one tread edge that meet the following requirements based on mold dimensions:
 - a. Extend toward the tread center at least 1/2 inch from the footprint edge, measured perpendicularly to the tread centerline.
 - b. A minimum cross-sectional width of 1/16 inch.
 - c. Edges of pockets or slots at angles between 35 and 90 degrees from the direction of travel.
2. The new tire tread contact surface void area will be a minimum of 25% based on mold dimensions.

[NOTE: For the RMA Severe Snow Use Tire Definition, please refer to the Tire Information Service Bulletin Volume 37 titled: "RMA Definition For Passenger And Light Truck Tires For Use In Snow Conditions."]

RMA DEFINITION FOR PASSENGER AND LIGHT TRUCK¹ TIRES FOR USE IN SEVERE SNOW CONDITIONS

Tires designed for use in severe snow conditions generally have tread patterns, structure, and materials to give superior performance in snow over tires meeting the RMA Snow Tire Definition².

Tires designed for use in severe snow conditions are recognized by manufacturers to attain a traction index equal to or greater than 110 compared to the ASTM E-1136 Standard Reference Test Tire when using ASTM F-1805, 2006 snow traction test with medium packed snow surface and equivalent percentage loads³. Other test methods and reference tires developed by standardizing bodies may be used provided proper correlations are demonstrated.

Tires designed for use in severe snow conditions are marked on at least one sidewall with the letters "M" and "S" (e.g., MS, M/S, M&S, M+S, etc.) **plus** a pictograph of a mountain with a snowflake. The mountain profile shall have a minimum base of 15 mm and a minimum height of 15 mm and shall contain three-peaks with the middle peak being the tallest. Inside the mountain there shall be a six-sided snowflake having a minimum height of one-half the tallest peak. An example of the mountain/snowflake is shown below.



Sidewall Symbol for Severe Snow Use Tires
To be placed adjacent to the M+S type designation
Minimum 15 mm/0.6" base and 15 mm/0.6" height

¹Tires with LT in the size designation

²For the RMA Snow Tire Definition, please refer to the Tire Information Service Bulletin Volume 10 titled *RMA Snow Tire Definition for Passenger and Light Truck (LT) Tires*.

³Using a test load equal to 74% of the test inflation rated load.